GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:863
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
VISIT OF U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE
GORDHANBHAI JAVIA;RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. Secretary of State visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of the matters discussed with him; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) US Secretary of State Colin Powell visited New Delhi on 17-18 January 2002.

(b) His visit provided an opportunity for the Government to continue the on-going discussions with the United States on all aspects of the global war against terrorism, the political and economic future of Afghanistan, situation in Pakistan and developments following the attack on the Parliament on 13 December 2001 by Pakistan-based terrorist organisations.

(c) The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to continue India-U.S. consultation and cooperation as part of international efforts to secure durable political settlement and economic reconstruction in Afghanistan. While expressing appreciation for President Musharraf`s speech of January 12 and the steps he has taken to support international efforts to combat terrorism, Secretary Powell agreed with India`s view that President Musharraf must match his words with action, including with regard to closing down terrorist organisations and camps in Pakistan and checking infiltration by terrorists from Pakistan into India.